

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B1 1. A system for distributing content to a client computer, comprising:
a server comprising a content object;
a first content cache at a first address, wherein the first content cache
comprises a first copy of the content object;
a second content cache at a second address, wherein the second content
cache comprises a second copy of the content object; and
a preference list originating from the client computer, wherein the
preference list comprises at least one of the first address and the second address.

2. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
in claim 1, further comprising a routing mechanism that maps one of the content object,
the first copy and the second copy to the client computer.

3. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
in claim 1, further comprising a directory that maps one of the content object, the first
copy and the second copy to the client computer.

Sub B2 4. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
in claim 3, wherein the server periodically delivers a catalog of content objects to the
directory.

5. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
in claim 3, wherein the directory is affected by the preference list.

6. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
in claim 1, wherein:
the content object comprises a first portion and a second portion;
the first portion is stored on the first content cache and not on the second
content cache; and
the second portion is stored on the second content cache and not on the
first content cache.

7. A system for distributing content to a client computer, comprising:
a content object;

3 a first content cache at a first address, wherein the first content cache
4 comprises a first copy of the content object;
5 a second content cache at a second address, wherein the second content
6 cache comprises a second copy of the content object; and
7 a directory that maps one of the first copy and the second copy to the client
8 computer.

1 8. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 7, further comprising a preference list originating from the client computer,
3 wherein the preference list comprises at least one of the first address and the second
4 address.

1 9. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 8, wherein the directory is affected by the preference list.

1 10. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 7, further comprising a routing mechanism that maps one of the content object, a
3 first copy and a second copy to the client computer.

1 11. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 7, further comprising a server that comprises the content object.

1 12. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 11, wherein the server periodically delivers catalog information to the directory.

1 13. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 11, wherein:

3 the content object comprises a first portion and a second portion;
4 the first portion is stored on the first content cache and not on the second
5 content cache; and
6 the second portion is stored on the second content cache and not on the
7 first content cache.

1 14. A system for distributing content to a client computer, comprising:
2 a content object comprising a portion;

3 a first content cache at a first address, wherein the first content cache
4 comprises a first copy of the portion;
5 a second content cache at a second address, wherein the second content
6 cache comprises a second copy of the portion; and
7 a routing mechanism that maps one of the portion, the first copy and the
8 second copy to the client computer.

1 15. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 14, further comprising a preference list originating from the client computer,
3 wherein the preference list comprises at least one of the first address and the second
4 address.

1 16. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 15, wherein the directory is affected by the preference list.

1 17. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 14, further comprising a server that comprises the content object.

1 18. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 17, wherein the server periodically delivers a catalog of content objects on the
3 server to the directory.

1 19. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 16, wherein:
3 the content object comprises a first fragment and a second fragment;
4 the first fragment is stored on the first content cache and not on the second
5 content cache; and
6 the second fragment is stored on the second content cache and not on the
7 first content cache.

1 20. The system for distributing content to the client computer as recited
2 in claim 14, wherein the routing mechanism includes a directory.